

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

Claims 1 to 10 - (Cancelled).

11.(currently amended) A method of raising birds from hatchlings comprising:

providing a barn defining a containment area having a floor surface arranged for raising birds from the hatchlings;

providing a vehicle for movement over a the floor surface of a the
containment area for raising hatchlings into birds;

providing a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of a sheet material;
dispensing the sheet material as a strip laid directly onto the floor surface
as the vehicle is moved across the floor;

providing a hopper on the vehicle for receiving a feed material for the
hatchlings;

and dispensing the feed material through a nozzle of the hopper as a layer
of the feed material onto the strip after the strip is laid as the vehicle is moved forwardly
such that the strip is held down in place on the floor by the feed material from the
nozzle;

causing the feed material to be maintained separated from the floor
surface by the sheet material such the feed material is protected against being lost
within the floor surface;

placing the hatchlings on the strip;

and protecting by the sheet material the hatchlings from engagement with
the floor surface while providing access to the feed material on the sheet material.

12.(currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the nozzle is elongate extending across the width of the strip of sheet material so as to deposit the feed material substantially across the full width.

13.(currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 including arranging the nozzle relative to the strip such that the nozzle leaves spaces free from the feed material at the side edges of the strip.

14.(original) The method according to Claim 11 including closing off feed through the nozzle when the vehicle is halted.

15.(currently amended) The method according to Claim 14 wherein the feed is ~~shut~~ closed off by a closure plate underneath the nozzle operable by a lever.

16. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 14 wherein the vehicle is a trailer towed by a tractor on which the operator rides and wherein the feed is ~~shut~~ closed off by a lever operable by the operator on the tractor.

17.(currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the strip is laid flat on the floor surface and held in place solely by the feed material laid thereon.

18. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the feed material is applied in a layer of constant thickness substantially across the full width of the strip leaving a band at each edge of the strip which is free from the feed material.